

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6506

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PDIP, EAID, SF, RH, LT, US

SUBJECT: ASST. SECY. SCHAUFLE'S MEETING WITH FONMIN MOLAPO

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE MET WITH LESOTHO FONMIN C. D. MOLAPO ON DEC 1 DURING AAI CONFERENCE IN MASERU. THE MINISTER OPENED THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF MEETING BY INTRODUCING SUBJECT OF TRANSKEI BORDER CLOSURE. HE SAID THAT WHEN GOL SPEAKS OF "CLOSURE" THEY DO NOT MEAN THAT FENCE HAS BEEN PUT UP OR GATE LOCKER. HE SAID THAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT SEVERAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WERE CREATED OCT 26 (THE DATE OF TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE). AS OF OCT 26 ORDINARY CITIZENS WERE REQUIRED TO HAVE VISA TO ENTER TRANSKEI. THE FEE IS 50 CENTS. HE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEASTERN LESOTHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN TRAVELING TO TRANSKEI. TRADITIONALLY, WHEN THEY HAVE ENTERED THAT AREA IT HAS BEEN SIMPLY THE ROUTE TO TAKE THEM TO THE "WHITE" AREA OF MATATIELE WHICH STILL REMAINS A PART OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE MINISTER REFERRED TO AUGUST 1973 AGREEMENT BETWEEN LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNING PASSAGE OF MINERS FROM LESOTHO ENROUTE TO THE MINES IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIS AGREEMENT SPECIFIED 15 BORDER CROSSING POINTS, 3 OF WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSED AS RESULT OF CREATION OF TRANSKEI. THE CLOSING OF THESE POINTS IS IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND LESOTHO HOLDS SOUTH AFRICA RESPONSIBLE. THE MINISTER OUTLINED THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FOR LESOTHO ARISING FROM THE CLOSING OF THE TRANSKEI BORDER, SAYING THE COUNTRY WILL SUSTAIN A LOSS OF CUSTOMS REVENUES AND, IN PARTICULAR, A HEAVY LOSS IN REPATRIATED BASOTHO MINERS' WAGES. MR. SCHAUFLE

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TOLD THE MINISTER THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD RAISED THIS

MATTER WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THEIR REPLY. HE SAID THE INQUIRY HAD BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY WOULD RECEIVE WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS.

2. THE MINISTER STATED THAT LESOTHO HAD NOT RECOGNIZED TRANSKEI. MR. SCHAUFLE POINTED OUT THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT RECOGNIZED TRANSKEI EITHER. THE MINISTER ASKED MR. SCHAUFLE WHY THE U.S. HAD ABSTAINED ON THE UN VOTE TO DENY RECOGNITION TO THE TRANSKEI. MR. SCHAUFLE REPLIED "WE TAKE RESOLUTIONS SERIOUSLY". HE SAID THAT FIRST OF ALL THERE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN ANY VOTE ON THIS QUESTION. IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS BUT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MAURITIUS HAD INSISTED ON A VOTE MUCH TO THE DISPLEASURE OF SOME OF THE AFRICANS. HE SAID OUR DECISION TO ABSTAIN WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED SOME OBJECTIONABLE PHRASES, PARTICULARLY ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE DENIED PERSONAL CONTACT WITH TRANSKEI OFFICIALS. HE SAID THAT, WHILE WE HAVE ISSUED SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICIALS NOT TO TRAVEL IN THE TRANSKEI, WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT IT WAS USEFUL TO RETAIN THE POSSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL CONTACT. THIS WAS THE CASE WITH REGARD TO UGANDA AND THE CONGO, WITH BOTH OF WHOM WE HAD BROKEN OFF RELATIONS.

3. THE MINISTER ASKED MR. SCHAUFLE TO BRIEF HIM ON ZIMBABWE. MR. SCHAUFLE COVERED THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO ZIMBABWE OVER THE PAST MONTHS LEADING UP TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

4. THE MINISTER THEN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF LESOTHO'S NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. MR. SCHAUFLE STATED HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THIS PROJECT BUT HE EXPLAINED THAT AID LEGISLATION DIFFERS FROM WHAT IT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO IN THAT IT NOW REQUIRES THAT OUR ASSISTANCE BE CONCENTRATED IN THE FIELDS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. OUR AID IS INTENDED BY CONGRESS TO BE FOCUSED ON THOSE PEOPLE WHO NEED ASSISTANCE MOST. THERE MAY BE A POSSIBILITY OF JUSTIFYING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INFRASTRUCTURE BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE ASSENT OF CONGRESS. MR. SCHAUFLE POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESSMAN SILVIO CONTE HAD YESTERDAY SPOKEN OF THE AIRPORT PROJECT DURING THE CLOSED DISCUSSIONS IN THE AAI CONFERENCE. MR. SCHAUFLE SUGGESTED THAT THE MINISTER MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AIRPORT WITH MR. CONTE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE A PROJECT LIKE THIS ON ITS OWN. HE ASKED THE MINISTER WHO WOULD BE DOING THE AIRPORT. THE MINISTER REPLIED "THE EDF".

5. THE MINISTER THEN STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH THE CHARGE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THE DESIRE OF GOL FOR INCREASED U.S.

ASSISTANCE. MR. SCHAUFLELE SAID ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA WERE BEING MADE AVAILABLE. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THIS BUT HE FELT THAT THE INCREASED FUNDS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA DID NOT REALLY INCLUDE LESOTHO. MR. SCHAUFLELE SAID THAT HE FELT, WITH THE NEW INTEREST AND EMPHASIS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, GREATER U.S. ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THIS PART OF THE CONTINENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT INCREASED ASSISTANCE FOR LESOTHO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE AID REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA IN MASERU.

6. THE MINISTER RAISED AGAIN THE QUESTION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR FOR LESOTHO. MR. SCHAUFLELE SAID THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THINK WE HAVE TOO MANY AMBASSADORS IN AFRICA ALREADY. THE MINISTER NEVERTHELESS CONTINUED TO URGE THE NAMING OF A RESIDENT CHIEF OF MISSION IN MASERU. MR. SCHAUFLELE SAID THAT WE ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO REVIEW THE QUESTION BUT HE EMPHASIZED HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT ON THIS MATTER.

7. THE MEETING THEN CLOSED.
STOKES

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